

## **REMARKS**

Claims 1-12 are pending and under consideration in the above-identified application.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-12 were rejected.

In this Amendment, Claims 11 and 12 are amended, claim, and Claims 1 – 10 are cancelled.

Accordingly, Claims 11 and 12 are at issue.

### **I. Specification**

Applicants have amended the Specification to describe Fig. 1B. No new matter has been introduced as a result of this amendment.

### **II. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claims 1-10**

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crosby et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,840,617) in view of Ohashi (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0089564).

The rejection of Claims 1 – 10 is now moot in view of their cancellation.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that these claim rejections be withdrawn.

### **III. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claims 11-12**

Claims 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Crosby et al.* (“Crosby”) (U.S. Patent No. 6,840,617) in view of *Ohashi* (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0089564) further in view of *Ujino et al.* (“Ujino”) (JP2001-71480).

Claim 11 has been amended by incorporating the substantial limitations of cancelled Claim 6.

Claim 11 is directed to a liquid ejection apparatus. The liquid ejection apparatus comprises a liquid ejection head having a plurality of nozzles positioned, a platen plate opposing the liquid ejection surface, a recording object supported by the platen plate to receive liquid droplets ejected from the plurality of nozzles, and a conveying unit having a plurality of conveying belts.

Claim 11 requires that a conveying unit has a plurality of conveying belts arranged at predetermined intervals in a direction substantially perpendicular to a conveying direction of the recording object along a predetermined route to convey the recording object from a supply side of the liquid ejection head to a discharge side thereof, and within a region where the liquid droplets are ejected from the liquid ejection head, the plurality of conveying belts is located below a bottom end of the platen plate away from the liquid ejection head. Moreover, the platen plate includes a plurality of ribs that projects upwardly from a bottom end of the platen plate, extends in the conveying direction of the recording object and is arranged at predetermined intervals along a width direction of the recording object. The bottom end has a crenellated shape such that the plurality of ribs is shorter in depth in portions of the platen plate where the plurality of conveying belts is located below the bottom end of the platen plate,

This is clearly unlike *Crosby*, *Ohashi* and *Ujino*, taken singly or in combination with each other. The Examiner acknowledges that both *Crosby* and *Ohashi* fail to disclose the claimed conveying unit that conveys the recording object from a supply side to a discharge side, and which is located below a bottom end of the platen plate relative to the ejection head, but states that *Ujino* allegedly does.

However, all three references fail to teach or suggest that the conveying unit includes a plurality of belts arranged at predetermined intervals and that the bottom end of the platen plate has a crenellated shape such that the plurality of ribs is shorter in depth in portions of the platen plate where the plurality of belts crawls below the bottom end of the platen plate.

Thus, Claim 11 is patentable over *Crosby*, *Ohashi* and *Ujino*, taken singly or in combination with each other, as is dependent Claim 12, for at least the same reasons.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the claim rejection be withdrawn.

**IV. Conclusion**

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that Claims 11 and 12 are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully requests early and favorable notification to that effect.

Dated: Jan. 10, 2008

By: David R. Metzger

Respectfully submitted,

David R. Metzger  
Registration No. 32,919  
SONNENSCHN NATH & ROSENTHAL LLP  
P.O. Box 061080  
Wacker Drive Station, Sears Tower  
Chicago, Illinois 60606-1080  
(312) 876-8000